

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/81

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC RELATIONS: HIGHLIGHTS OF NAC DISCUSSION,
DECEMBER 5

DEPARTMENT CIRCULATE TO OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

REF: STATE 236115 (EXDIS)

SUMMARY: U.S. PRESENTATION OF REVISIONS TO FRENCH DRAFT OF
ATLANTIC DECLARATION SPARKED A MOST THOUGHTFUL AND
THOUGHT-PROVOKING COUNCIL DISCUSSION. HIGHLIGHTS
OF DISCUSSION FOLLOW BELOW. SEE SEPTTEL FOR DETAILED REPORT.
END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S EXPLANATION OF RATIONALE
FOR U.S. REVISIONS, FRENCH PERMREP DE ROSE, RESPONDING ON PERSONAL
BASIS, PRAISED WIDE AGREEMENT ON MANY PARTS OF DECLARATION BUT
NOTED KEY DIFFERENCES--PARTICULARLY IN PARAGRAPH 3. SPECIFICALLY,
DE ROSE THOUGHT FRENCH TEXT PREFERABLE TO U.S. IN EXPRESSING
"OBVIOUS" DIFFERENCES IN U.S. AND EUROPEAN VULNERABILITY. HE
HAD NO OBJECTION, HOWEVER, TO ACCEPTANCE OF "DEFENSE OF EUROPE"
LANGUAGE WHICH HE TERMED A TRANSLATION PROBLEM ONLY. DE ROSE
HAD PROBLEMS WITH INCREASINGLY "COMPLEX" AS DESCRIPTION OF
EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROBLEM AND QUESTIONED NEED FOR RESTATEMENT IN
LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 3 OF WHAT HE TERMED ALLIANCE "CATECHISM"
FRENCH PERMREP ALSO QUESTIONED POSSIBLE DANGERS IN LINKING
SOLIDARITY WITH FOREIGN STATIONING OF FORCES. DE ROSE THOUGHT
SECRET

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U.S. CHANGES IN PARA 4, SENTENCE 1, HAD BEEN COVERED BY NEW
IS ENGLISH TEXT (SEPTTEL) AND REITERATED FRENCH DEFENSE OF "AT
PRESENT" TERMINOLOGY AS MERELY A FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF
CURRENT SITUATION. FRENCH PERMREP FORESAW NO REAL PROBLEM

WITH U.S. SUGGESTION FOR CHANGES IN DESCRIPTION OF U.S.
EUROPEAN FORCE RATIO BUT QUESTIONED DELETION OF SPECIFIC
REFERENCE TO JUNE 22 U.S.- SOVIET AGREEMENT.

2. ALL ALLIES WHO SPOKE WELCOMED SUBMISSION OF U.S. TEXTUAL CHANGES.
SOME (CANADA, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, IN PRELIMINARY UNINSTRUCTED
COMMENTS) SAID THEY FELT THEY COULD NOW AGREE WITH SPECIFIC
ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. POSITION. SPIERENBURG (NETHERLANDS)
AND DE ROSE HAD SHARP EXCHANGE ON ROLE OF FRENCH NUCLEAR
FORCES SPECIFICALLY ON WORDS DETERRENT ROLE "OF THEIR OWN."
DE ROSE SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER POSSIBLE REWORDING AS LONG
AS IT DID NOT IMPLY ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE WHATSOEVER
IN FRENCH POSITION.

3. MORE THAN TWO HOURS OF THOUGHTFUL COUNCIL DISCUSSION RAISES
CURTAIN ON WHAT PROMISES TO BE INTERESTING EXCHANGE IN AND
AROUND FRINGES OF NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERIAL MEETING.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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